

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 091645Z SEP 75 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3021

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 ALGIERS 1980

NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AG, ME

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE

REF: STATE 212547

1. SUMMARY: SECRETARY'S SEPTEMBER 7 MESSAGE TO BOUMEDIENE DELIVERED PERSONALLY SEPTEMBER 9. BOUMEDIENE SAID ALGERIAN POSITION ON INTERIM AGREEMENT NOT YET DECIDED. HE EXPRESSED PERSONAL RESERVATIONS HOWEVER. SAID THERE WAS DISARRAY IN ARAB WORLD RESULTING FROM SIGNING OF AGREEMENT AND HE FINDING IT DIFFICULT SUPPORT OUR PEACE EFFORTS IN VIEW CONFLICTING DEMANDS ON HIM. BELIEVE MESSAGE VERY WELL-TIMED AND USEFUL.

2. WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE AT 1345 TODAY TO CONVEY ORAL MESSAGE CONTAINED REFTTEL. I READ HIM ARABIC TRANSLATION OF MESSAGE AND LEFT COPY OF TEXT IN ENGLISH.

3. BOUMEDIENE SAID ALGERIA'S POSITION ON QUESTION OF ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT NOT YET DECIDED. HE DID NOT YET HAVE CLEAR PICTURE AND DID NOT KNOW ALL DETAILS, BUT HE HAD SOME STRICTLY PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS. HE WISHED TO MAKE CLEAR HOWEVER THAT THESE WERE NOT STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL ALGERIAN POSITION. IN GENERAL, HE COULD SAY THAT HE HAD DOUBTS THAT STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH WOULD LEAD TO FINAL SETTLEMENT.

4. FIRST OF ALL, HE UNDERSTOOD THAT ACTIVITY ON A

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SETTLEMENT BY THE AMERICANS WOULD IN EFFECT BE FROZEN

FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS BECAUSE OF ELECTORAL CONSIDERATIONS.  
HE DID NOT THINK THE SITUATION WOULD REMAIN CALM FOR THAT  
LONG.

5. SECONDLY, PEOPLE FROM ALL SIDES WERE ASKING HOW LONG  
THEY COULD WAIT. EVEN TWO YEARS WAS TOO LONG.

6. THIRDLY, ISRAELI AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT ALONE, I.E. NOT  
INCLUDING SYRIA, HAD CREATED MUCH UNEASINESS IN THE AREA.  
INDEED, IT HAD CREATED A NEW SITUATION IN TERMS OF MIDDLE  
EAST RELATIONSHIPS. IT WAS CLEAR AT RABAT THAT ALL WERE  
AGREED IF THERE WERE TO BE MOVEMENT TOWARDS PEACE IT MUST  
BE GENERAL. THIS NEW AGREEMENT WAS NOT GENERAL MOVEMENT.  
SYRIANS AND PALESTINIANS LEFT OUT.

7. FOURTHLY, WHY DID US COMMIT ITSELF TO SEND TECHNICIANS  
TO MAN THE EARLY WARNING STATIONS? OUR COMMITMENT WAS  
BEGINNING JUST AS IT HAD IN VIETNAM. ALGERIANS FOUND THIS  
VERY DISTURBING. I SAID THAT AN AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO A  
PRESENCE HAD BEEN SINE QUA NON FOR ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGREE-  
MENT BY BOTH SIDES. WE WERE RESPONDING TO THEIR DEMANDS.  
THE PRESIDENT SAID WE SHOULD NOT HAVE GIVEN INTO THEIR PRESSURES,  
WHATEVER THEY WERE. WHAT, HE ASKED RHETORICALLY, WOULD BE  
THE POSITION OF THE US IF FIVE OR TEN AMERICAN TECHNICIANS  
WERE KILLED BY ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER IN A RAID? WOULD THE  
AMERICAN PEOPLE ACCEPT THAT? AGAINST WHOM WOULD WE REACT?

8. PRESIDENT WENT ON TO SAY THAT SYRIANS WERE DEEPLY DISTURBED  
BY AGREEMENT AND SO WERE PALESTINIANS. PALESTINIANS WERE AN  
EXPLOSIVE ELEMENT. IF THEY WERE IN AGREEMENT ANYTHING WAS  
POSSIBLE. IF THEY WERE NOT IN AGREEMENT ANYTHING NEGATIVE  
WAS ALSO POSSIBLE (I.E., THEY COULD MAKE OR BREAK PROGRESS  
TOWARDS AN AGREEMENT).

9. PRESIDENT SAID SECRETARY SHOULD KNOW THAT EVEN STEP-BY-STEP  
HAD ITS LIMITS. US WAS GREAT POWER AND MUST FOLLOW WHAT  
IT THOUGHT ITS INTERESTS WERE, BUT ITS POLICIES AT THE  
MOMENT WERE CREATING A SERIOUS SPLIT IN THE ARAB WORLD  
WHATEVER ITS INTENTIONS. HE FEARED SADAT WOULD FIND HIM-  
SELF ISOLATED AS A RESULT. THERE WAS NO HARMONY IN THE  
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MIDDLE EAST TODAY AND ARAB POLICY MAKES WERE IN A BIND.

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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3022

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 ALGIERS 1980

NODIS CHEROKEE

10. I REPEATED THAT WE CONSIDERED INTERIM AGREEMENT AS IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD AND SECRETARY HAD SAID WE WOULD EXPEND AS MUCH EFFORT ON THE SYRIAN FRONT AS WE HAD ON THE RECENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL. PRESIDENT ASKED IF WE REALLY THOUGHT ANYTHING COULD BE DONE WITH REGARD TO GOLAN. I SAID IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT BUT WE WERE DETERMINED TO DO EVERYTHING WE COULD TO GET AGREEMENT.

11. PRESIDENT MUSED THAT IN ANY EVENT WE HAD NOW TAKEN THE MATTER BETWEEN OUR HANDS AND THE SOVIETS SEEMED TO HAVE WITHDRAWN FROM THE PROCESS. IT WAS UP TO US. ALGERIANS WANTED A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN THE AREA VERY BADLY. HE HAD TRIED TO BE REALISTIC AND PRACTICAL AND HAD SUPPORTED OUR EFFORTS, BUT IT WAS GETTING VERY DIFFICULT. HE WAS BEING CALLED UPON TO SUPPORT THE SYRIANS AND PALESTINIANS ON THE ONE HAND AND THE EGYPTIANS ON THE OTHER AND WAS TORN BETWEEN THEM. WE WOULD HAVE TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED.

12. ON WAY OUT PRESIDENT SAID HE UNDERSTOOD EVERYTHING WAS ALL SET FOR PRODUCER-CONSUMER CONFERENCE IN PARIS AND THE ALGERIANS HOPED FOR SERIOUS AND FRUITFUL DIALOGUE THERE I SAID WE UNDERSTOOD DETAILS HAD BEEN WORKED OUT AND WE TOO WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO USEFUL MEETING.

13. COMMENT: BOUMEDIENE UNUSUALLY INTROSPECTIVE. PERHAPS RAMADAN FASTING MAKES HIM SO, BUT HE ALSO SEEMS GENUINELY UNDECIDED AS TO WHAT POLICY TO FOLLOW AND TO BE IN PROCESS OF THINKING IT THROUGH. MESSAGE COULD NOT HAVE BEEN BETTER  
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TIMED. BELIEVE IT WILL HAVE USEFUL IMPACT. BOUMEDIENE STILL

ON RESERVATION, BUT OBVIOUSLY BOTHERED BY INTRA ARAB PRESSURES  
AND BY CONVICTION PEACEMAKING PROCESS WILL BE FROZEN BY AMERICAN  
ELECTORAL CONSIDERATIONS UNTIL 1977. RECENT RABIN STATEMENTS  
ABOUT HAVING NO INTENTION TO MOVE ON SYRIAN OR JORDANIAN FRONTS  
HAVE NOT, OF COURSE, BEEN VERY HELPFUL THIS REGARD. THEY  
ARE ASSUMED LOCALLY TO REFLECT ISRAELI ESTIMATE THAT WE WILL  
BE UNABLE TO ACT. AS FAR AS ALGERIANS CONCERNED, MOVEMENT  
OR LACK OF IT ON SYRIAN AND PALESTINIAN FRONTS IN IMMEDIATE  
FUTURE WILL BE KEY TO OUR INTENTIONS AND CAPABILITIES.PARKER

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